

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GABORO 02398 012220Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

IO-13 HA-05 EUR-12 /094 W

-----037519 022321Z /14

R 011408Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO RUESECSTATE WASHDC 2833

INFO AMEMBASSY DARESSALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 2398

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, BC

SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENT WARNS BOTSWANA'S WHITE FARMERS

1. DAILY NEWS FOR JULY 24, REPORTED RECENT SPEECH BY VICE PRESIDENT MASIRE IN HIS HOME TOWN OF GHANZI IN WHICH HE ISSUED STERN WARNINGS TO BOTSWANA'S WHITE FARMERS. SPEAKING TO AN AUDIENCE WHICH MUST HAVE INCLUDED MANY WHITES, MASIRE SAID THAT THOSE WHO SPREAD "PROPAGANDA IN SUPPORT OF THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT" COULD BE CONSIDERED "UNPATRIOTIC AND DANGEROUS". HE WARNED THAT "ANY WHITE FARMER IN GHANZI OR ANYWHERE ELSE IN BOTSWANA" WHO HAS "SYMPATHIES FOR THE ENEMIES OF BOTSWANA" SHOULD PACK UP AND GET OUT OR RISK SUFFERING CONSEQUENCES OF "HIS DISLOYALTY AND INGRATITUDE".

2. TURNING TO EXPATRIATE ATTITUDES TOWARD BOTSWANA, MASIRE CALLED UPON WHITE CITIZENS TO HAVE ONLY A COMMON LOYALTY TO BOTSWANA, NOT TO "DISTANT LANDS" FROM WHICH MANY OF THEM HAVE COME. HE ACCUSED SOME WHITES IN GHANZI AND OTHER AREAS OF BOTSWANA OF CLINGING TO MENTALITY APPROPRIATE FOR BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE, BUT WHICH  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GABORO 02398 012220Z

HAS BEEN RELEGATED TO THE PAST IN INDEPENDENT BOTSWANA. MASIRE SUGGESTED THAT THOSE WHITES WHO CANNOT ADJUST THEIR ATTITUDES TO NEW REALITIES SHOULD LEAVE BOTSWANA IN PEACE INSTEAD OF CREATING "ENCLAVES OF DEFIANCE" IN GHANZI OR OTHER AREAS OF THE COUNTRY.

3. AFTER LASHING OUT AT WHAT HE REGARDED AS DISLOYALTY

AMONG BOTSWANA'S WHITES, MASIRE REPORTEDLY CALLED UPON HIS AUDIENCE TO COOPERATE TO MAKE A SUCCESS OF GOB POLICY OF NONRACIALISM WHICH "MUST SUCCEED IF WE ARE TO REMAIN A PEACEFUL COUNTRY". HE THEN CONCLUDED THAT BOTSWANA WILL "TAKE A SERIOUS VIEW OF ANY ATTEMPT BY ANYBODY TO SOW THE SEEDS OF RACIAL DISCORD IN OUR COUNTRY", PARTICULARLY WHEN UNITY IS REQUIRED TO DEAL WITH THE CONTINUING CRISIS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.

4. COMMENT: WE CANNOT RECALL A COMPARABLE PUBLIC ATTACK ON "DISLOYAL" WHITE ATTITUDES BY A RANKING GOB OFFICIAL. MASIRE'S REMARKS MAY BE INDICATIVE OF GROWING TENSIONS BETWEEN WHITES AND BLACKS IN THE REGION (I.E. RSA AND RHODESIA) WHICH COULD SOON BEGIN TO ERODE FOUNDATIONS OF BOTSWANA'S EXPERIMENT IN NONRACIALISM. WHITE APPREHENSIONS HAVE GROWN SINCE MARCH WHEN THREE WHITE FOREIGNERS DIED WHILE IN DETENTION BY THE BOTSWANA DEFENSE FORCE (BDF) IN THE TULI BLOCK (REFTELS). INDEED, UK HIGH COMMISSION AND OTHERS HAVE TOLD ME THAT WHITE FARMERS IN TULI BLOCK AREA (NOT GHANZI) WERE THE TARGETS OF MASIRE'S REMARKS BECAUSE THEIR SYMPATHIES AND ASSOCIATIONS ARE OPENLY PRO-SOUTH AFRICA/RHODESIAN. SOME WHITES CONTINUE TO POINT TO THE TULI BLOCK INCIDENT, ALTHOUGH AN ISOLATED OCCURRENCE, AS EVIDENCE THAT THEIR SAFETY, SECURITY AND PROPERTY CAN NO LONGER BE ASSURED IN BOTSWANA. THE  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 GABORO 02398 012220Z

DIALOGUE REMAINS OPEN, HOWEVER, AND AT LEAST SOME WHITES HAVE TAKEN THEIR COMPLAINTS DIRECTLY TO MASIRE AND OTHER GOB OFFICIALS. THESE COMPLAINTS MAY, IN THEMSELVES, HAVE HAD THE UNINTENDED EFFECT OF AROUSING RESENTMENT WITHIN GOB AGAINST "DISLOYAL" WHITE ATTITUDES. ALTHOUGH UNDOUBTEDLY DESIGNED TO DAMPEN RACIAL TENSIONS, MASIRE'S WARNING TO SOME "WHITE FARMERS" IS UNLIKELY TO CONTRIBUTE TO APPEASEMENT OF RACIAL FEELINGS. THE NET EFFECT MAY WELL BE TO CONVINCE SOME WHITES THAT BOTSWANA'S NONRACIALISM CANNOT MUCH LONGER WITHSTAND THE GROWING CONTINENT-WIDE POLARIZATION OF RACIAL TENSIONS DERIVING FROM THE POLICIES OF APARTHEID AND STRIFE IN RHODESIA.  
NORLAND

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN



## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** VICE PRESIDENT, SPEECHES, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 01 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978GABORO02398  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780317-0033  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** GABORONE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t197808113/aaaadrel.tel  
**Line Count:** 108  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 6d346b59-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22 apr 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1581743  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** VICE PRESIDENT WARNS BOTSWANA'S WHITE FARMERS  
**TAGS:** PINT, BC, RH, (MASIRE, QUETT KJ)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/6d346b59-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014